

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01376 191154Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 AID-20 EUR-25 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 003804

R 191035Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1256

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMACO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO ET OAU

SUBJ: ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE

REF: A. LAGOS 7514 (NOTAL); B. USDAO ADDIS 170930Z (NOTAL)

1. IN REF K, AMEMBASSY LAGOS ASKS EMBASSY RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM NIGERIAN FONOFF OFFICIAL "...WHY GSDR HAD CHOSEN HEAT UP BORDER ISSUE AT THIS TIME AFTER LONG PBRIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY OF PETROLEUM DISCOVERIES OR COVER-UP FOR SOMALI INTERNAL TROUBLES AS POSSIBLE MOTIVES."

2. WHILE NO ONE CANBE DEFINITIVE ON GSDR'S REASON FOR "HEATING
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01376 191154Z

UP BORDER ISSUE" AND HIGHLIGHTING "ETHIOPIAN TRHEAT" DURING

PAST TEN MONTHS, WE THINK SOMALI LEADERSHIP IS MOTIVATED BY FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS (NOT NECESSARILY IN RANK ORDER OF IMPORTANCE):

A. GENUINE FEAR THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL LAUNCH PREEMPTIVE ATTACK. THIS BASED ON RECENT ETHIOPIAN TROOP REINFORCEMENTS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SOMALI HISTORICAL APPREHENSION OF ETHIOPIAN MOTIVES AND CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF INFERIORITY COMPLEX. (WE BELIEVE SOMALIS NOW LESS CONCERNED THIS ISSUE BECAUSE OF OAU, U.S., AND OTHER APPROACHES EIHASIZING IEG COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND FACT ETHIOPIAN TROOPS IN OGADEN LACK OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY.)

B. PETROLEUM DEPOSITS NEAR DE FACTO BORDER. HOWEVER MUCH SIAD MAY CLAIM THAT TENNECO'S OPERATIONS ARE A RUSE AND THAT NO OIL DEPOSITS EXIST, SOMALIS RECOGNIZE THAT POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIALLY EXPLOITABLE OIL/GAS DETOSITS WILL INCREASE IEG PRESENC IN OGADEN AND STIFFEN IEG RELUCTANCE TO GIVE GROUND ON TERRITORIAL PROBLEM.

C. INTERNAL TROUBLES. SIAD'S REGIME FACES A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. THERE WIDE-SPREAD GRUMBLING AND CONSIDER-ABLE, ALBEIT UNCOORDINATED, OPPOSITION. IRREDENTIST ISSUE IS DEEPLY HELD TENET OF EVERY SPXALI. BY PLAYING ON THIS RE-SPONSIVE CHORD, GSDR CAN DIVERT SOME ATTENTION AWAY FROM REGIME'S PROBLEMS.

D. SIAD'S RELATIONS WITH HIM. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US SIAD HAS REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED FACT HE BELIEVES EMPEROR HAS ABANDONED HIS PREVIOUS WILLINGNESS DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE TERRITORIAL ISSUE BILATERALLY. SIAD THEREFORE PROBABLY FELT PROBLEM SHOULD BE PUT IN WIDER INTERNATIONAL FORUM (OAU) TO BRING PRESSURE ON IEG.

F. SIAD'S OWN DESIRE TO GAIN MAXIMUM INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE. AS CHAIRMAN OF UNWIELDLY AND OFTEN DIVIDED TWENTY-ONE MEMBER SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, SIAD HAS ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING HIS PRIMUS INTER PARES POSITION. ONE WAY HE CAN DEMONSTRATE HIS LEADERSHIP IS IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA WHERE AS CHIEF OF STATE HE HAS ENTREE TO OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE WHICH OTHER SRC MEMBERS DO NOT ENJOY.

3. WE WOULD AGREE THAT OAU COMMITTEE CAN PROBABLY DO LITTLE IN EFFECTING EARLY ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI AGREEMENT ON BASIC XERRITORIAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, OAU CAN BE MOST HELPFUL IF COMMITTEE IMPLEMENTS REPORTED PLAN TO ESTABLISH OAU BORDER CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 01376 191154Z

MILITARY CONTROL GROUP AND MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES 50-70 KMS. FROM BORDER (REF B - CONF NOFORN). CROMWELL

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NNN

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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